

COUNTY OF PLACER
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION MEETING
April 18, 2002

MINUTES

Attendees (Commissioners & Staff):

Dr. Richard Burton	Commission Chair & Placer County Health Officer
Raymond Merz	Commissioner & Director of Placer County Health & Human Services
Joe DePietro	Commissioner & Educational Representative
Tamara Lieberman	Commissioner & Program Officer Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation
Don Ferretti	CFC Coordinator & Health and Human Services Administration
Nancy Baggett	Health & Human Services – CFC Staff Systems Analyst
Sabrina Thompson	County Counsel
David Gray	Placer Institute, Consultant
Harriet White	Commissioner & BOS

Commissioners & Staff Not in Attendance:

Jill Harper	Commission Vice Chair & PCOE Administrator of Child Development Programs
Sandra Naylor-Goodwin	Commissioner & Director for the California Institute for Mental Health.

Public:

Vicky Spannagel	Placer County/HHS
Francine Nunes	PCOE - Childcare
Debra Lambrecht	Caring About Kids
Francine Nunes	PCOE
Jackie Kampp	HHS/Community Health & Breastfeeding Coalition
Jeanette Lovejoy	PCOE Child Care Services

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Joe DePietro called the Children and Families Commission Meeting to order at 4:47 p.m. He chaired the meeting until Dr. Burton arrived.

II. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Tamara Lieberman moved to approve the agenda, and Commissioner Harriet White seconded, all in favor. Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved.

III. Approval of Minutes

Joe DePietro moved to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2002 meeting, and Commissioner Tamara Lieberman seconded. Harriet White abstained due to her absence last month. All in favor. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

IV. New Business

- Recommendations on reconvening the Application Review Committee.

At the March 14th Children & Families Commission meeting, the Commission asked Don Ferretti, David Gray, Nancy Baggett, and Joe DePietro to meet and come back with follow-up recommendations on the remaining applications.

In response to the Commissioners' request, a recommendation was made to reconvene the Application Review Committee and continue the review of applications (\$5,000 and over) for possible funding not to exceed \$325,000. This recommendation was based on a previous decision by the Commission to suspend the \$500,000 Request for Results process planned for next year (a current financial report and a financial forecast ensuring funds to support the recommendation was provided). The following are the proposals that will be reviewed by the ARC:

Breastfeeding Coalition - \$67,000

Pregnant women will be fully informed about the advantages of breastfeeding for themselves, their infants and be aware of resources to assist them in continuing to breastfeed for six months and beyond. The coalition is a current Partner. (2 years)

Rocklin Unified School District – \$46,700

Handicapped pre-schoolers integrating with non-handicapped pre-schoolers in a supportive and developmentally appropriate environment. (2 years)

Waldorf Live Oak School - \$31,485

To provide another series of parenting seminars featuring noted speakers on brain development. The seminars would be provided for parents, educators, childcare providers and health care professionals. This organization is a current Partner.

Safe Kids Coalition - \$26,000

To increase care givers' knowledge and skills, as well as safety devices and referral information necessary to keep children in their care safe from unintentional injuries related to: fire and scald burns, bicycle and pedestrian activity, motor vehicle occupancy, poisonings, falls, choking, suffocation, strangulation, fire arms and drowning. (2 years)

Ride to Walk - \$45,000

To provide recreational activities and family support, particularly horseback riding for children with special needs. (2 years)

Health & Human Services Managed Care - \$65,000

The community and families with children at risk of not reaching developmental milestones due to disabilities and other special needs will know how to obtain information, referral resources, coordinated services and support. (2 years)

Loomis Co-op - \$43,485

To bring a playground up to safe standards and make it accessible to handicapped children.

Commissioner Ray Merz moved that the ARC reconvene to review the 7 additional applications with the \$325K in funding and Tamara Lieberman seconded the motion. All in favor. Hearing no objections, the motion was carried. Don will reconvene the ARC around this task.

There was a discussion about addressing the sustainable funding for the partners, which hadn't been worked out yet and was not covered in the spreadsheets. Commissioner Harriet White suggested that Jenine Windeshausen, Placer County Treasurer-Tax Collector would be a good resource. Don agreed and will follow up with Jenine; Harriet volunteered to meet with Don and Jenine.

• Recommendations on applications requesting \$5,000 or less.

The Commission had asked that Don, David, Nancy and Joe also look at the applications for \$5,000 and under and bring back funding recommendations. In addition, the Commission also asked that they review the current process of the \$5,000 and under application and contracting process and bring back recommendations for future processes. The Applications for \$5,000 and under are listed (see below) along with the committee's recommendations for funding.

Process Recommendations:

- Future “5K & Under” applications should be simplified by asking these basic questions:
 1. What opportunity or problem are you addressing?
 2. What outcomes are you proposing will be achieved?
 3. What will you do to achieve the outcomes?
 4. What data will you collect to show that outcomes have been achieved?
 5. How will Prop. 10 funds be spent to achieve the outcomes?
 6. How are you connected with the existing CFC Partner Network?
- In the review process, the committee should look at how the proposed activities fit with or enhance existing strategies (including non-Prop. 10 funded activities).
- The amount made available annually for \$5,000 and under applications should not exceed \$50,000.
- In collaboration with legal counsel and HHS fiscal staff, the CFC should develop a simplified contracting and payment process.

Funding Recommendations and Comments:

The committee recommends funding the applications listed below once the clarifications are resolved to the satisfaction of the committee.

Susan Connolly- PCOE Special Needs - \$5,000

To provide parents of young children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder with community resources and materials that will benefit their families. These resources and materials will provide tools for parents to facilitate their child’s speech and language needs and enhance their daily living skills.

- Need a detailed listing of the items that would be included under materials and supplies. Last year we funded: A color observation system with a warranty, a time lapse recorder, a color monitor, a digital camcorder, and monitor mounts.
- We would like to know how this program is connected to Melody Roy's program (also within PCOE) serving children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.
- In what ways will this program work with the application from HHS Managed Care for services to children Autistic Spectrum Disorder?

Gail Mohler - PCOE Special Needs - \$2,000

To purchase materials to improve communication skills, play skills, listening skills and sensory integration abilities.

- Last cycle we funded: toilets, cameras, a photo printer, a tricycle, a rifton chair, and switchable toys. The items requested in this application truly are enhancements that directly affect the children.

Mary Hansen - PCOE Special Needs - \$4,995

To purchase equipment that will enable children with special needs to interact with children who do not have special needs.

- Last time we funded portable laptops and a printer with carrying case for teachers to use when they make site visits. This new request would directly benefit the children with enrichment/fun materials.

Auburn Family Taekwondo - \$5,000

To provide scholarships for children up to 5 years of age to participate in the “Little Ninja” program that focuses on improving children’s basic motor and listening skills.

- Where would the referrals come from? We would want them to come from the CFC Partner network. We would also want the enrollment fee lowered.

Placer Community Action Council - \$3,405

An “Ages & Stages Developmental Screener” will assess children’s skill levels to give credentialed teachers an edge in creating individual curriculum plans that will be conducive in empowering each child to meet their full potential.

- Need clarification on exactly how the funds will be spent to evaluate Ages & Stages screening tools. Where will the information be sent? What process is used to learn from the data? What authority exists to apply learning? “

Joe moved that the funding recommendations be approved with a caveat that the clarifications are resolved to the satisfaction of the committee and that the committee is authorized to grant final approval. Tamara seconded. All in favor. Hearing no objections, the motion was carried.

There was a further discussion regarding funding options and the need to simplify the contracting process. Don and Nancy will schedule a meeting with Sabrina Thompson (County Counsel) and bring back recommendations.

Tamara moved that \$50,000 a year be awarded for the small grants of \$5,000 and under in lieu of \$100,000. Harriet seconded. All in favor. Hearing no objections, the motion was carried.

V. Old Business

None

VI. Commissioner Reports

Ray Merz reported that he, Nancy Baggett, Francine Nunes, and Gail Tondettar attended the Annual Statewide Conference of County Commissions in San Diego and presented feedback. The opening speaker dealt with outcome issues. Eunice Kennedy Shriver spoke and made an appeal for the disabled. Rob Reiner spoke as well. Additionally, there was a discussion as to why kids are the way they are and why people don’t understand why they commit suicide. The speaker’s presentation also focused on education and why students aren’t doing well—particularly in the Los Angeles area.

VII. Program Coordinator Report

- Update on evaluation activities

Don Ferretti reported that all the partners have been asked to submit the data they have collected. At this point, it appears there has been a lot of process but not much outcome data. He will be meeting Monday, April 22nd with Nancy Baggett, David Gray, and Michelle Fernandez. They will develop a game plan, meet with each partner and find out the best way they can present to the Commission. The priority is to review the 15 agencies that need to have renewed funding beginning July 1st. There are also one-year contracts that need to be worked with—but the 15 are the priority right now.

There was a discussion about whether partners have adequate knowledge to record their results and to present them; it’s quite possible the partners may need coaching. The Commission felt that this might be an opportunity for CFC to model the kind of interrelationship that we are asking the partners to adopt with children and the community as a whole. Don agreed with the Commission and said that it has been a learning process. Some of the partners have asked for and completed outcome screens; David Gray is responsible for this process.

Further, Don communicated that the partners have been given coaching and support as well as opportunities to share their outcomes. Don thinks it is very important to support the network model, and provide infrastructure for partners; in turn, we need to determine the costs involved.

The committee will publicize the meetings and everyone is welcome to attend. The committee feels it's important to find out what the outcomes are but also to create an interactive environment between the commissioners and the partners. There will be some presentations in June and July and maybe even in May. There may even be the need for a special meeting. There are 15 partners and it's possible that five (5) at a time would present.

- **State annual report**

The State requires that each county provide a public hearing on its annual report. Everyone has been given a copy of the report; copies were available at this meeting as well as in the CFC office and on the Local Internet. Next month there will be a public hearing on the report.

- **May meeting location**

As the CFC is more of a community organization and we advocate a community relationship, Don would like to experiment by having the CFC May 9th meeting at the Shiloh Center in Auburn and give another look to the community (other than a Placer County office venue). Tamara Lieberman also suggested having a meeting in the Tahoe area (when the weather is better). She thought this change of venue would make it easier for the Truckee/Tahoe partners to attend.

VIII. County Counsel Report

No report for this meeting

There was a request made by County Counsel to remove this section from the agenda.

IX. Public Comment

Vicki Spannagel, representing the collaborative, wanted to invite the Commission and staff to a strategic planning event April 30, 8:00 –1:00 at the Nazarene Church, Auburn. Heidi Colby will facilitate. Jill Harper and Ray Merz plan to attend.

Francine Nunes: She thanked the Commission for allowing her to attend the statewide conference. The Keynote speakers and the panel of parents (who had children with special needs such as Muscular Dystrophy, Downe Syndrome and Autism) validated for Francine what the CFC program is all about. Francine indicated that the State commission is working on a project of full inclusion for children with special needs.

The Placer County Children and Families Commission Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.